

Amesbury Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1944

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 25th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 49/45 dated March 19th, 1945.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 16,883.

Population—Estimated Mid. 1944—13,340

Area, 63,464 Acres

Rateable Value : £133,086

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £551 15 6

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1944 :
3,232

Births, 1944.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live	159	157	316 (31 Illegitimate)
Still	5	3	8 (3 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1944.		England and Wales
Live	23.6	Live 17.6
Still	0.59	Still 0.5

Birth Rate	Average last 10 years 20.3
England and Wales	„ „ 10 „ 15.3

Deaths : Males, 69. Females 61. Total, 130.

Death Rate	9.7	Average last 10 years 9.9
England and Wales	„ 11.6	„ „ 10 „ 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 10
Females 7. Total, 17.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	53.7
England and Wales	46.
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	38.6
England and Wales „ „ 10 „	53.5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	41 (9 Mil).	38 (9 Mil).	0
Diphtheria	2 (1 Mil).	2 (1 Mii).	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	3	0
Pneumonia	20 (15 Mil).	15 (15 Mil).	0
Erysipelas	2 (1 Mil).	2 (1 Mil).	0
Measles	114 (9 Mil).	12 (9 Mil).	0
Whooping Cough	43 (1 Mil).	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6 (6 Mil).	6	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Dysentery	18 (4 Mil).	4 (Mil).	0

Scarlet Fever. Forty-one cases, including 9 non-civilian cases from the surrounding camps were notified to me and of these three were nursed in their homes ; all the others were received into some hospital either Old Sarum or one of the Military Hospitals. No death was recorded. The disease in no case became epidemic and mostly occurred sporadically equally throughout the year. On only one occasion did more than one case occur in any one house at a time except when the disease was in an institution.

Diphtheria. Three cases were notified one being in a non-civilian, one of the civilians was in a girl age 22 who had not been immunised, the other was in a girl age 15 who had been immunised in January and March, 1941. On admission to Hospital the patient was Schcik tested and proved negative. Two throat swabs were positive to K.L.B. but subsequent ones soon became negative. This case was considered in the Hospital to be one of Tonsillitis and Diphtheria Carrier and the diagnosis of diphtheria was consequently changed. The patient made an uninterrupted recovery.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Three cases were notified to me, all were treated in Hospital, two in our Isolation Hospital and one in a Hospital in London. All recovered. The death given under " other maternal causes " in the table at the end was in a case occurring outside the district but belonging to it.

Pneumonia. Twenty cases were notified to me and of these 15 were non-civilians and treated in Hospital and I do not know the results, but of the remaining 5 civilians none were treated in Hospital and none died. Three cases certified in the district as dying from Pneumonia had not previously been notified to me the other deaths given by the Registrar General were either internal transfers or not of the sort which is notifiable.

Erysipelas. Of the two cases notified one was a non-civilian and the other was a transfer from Salisbury Infirmary to the Isolation Hospital.

Measles. Of the 114 cases notified 9 were non-civilians. Altogether 12 were treated in Hospital, viz. the 9 non-civilians, two trans-

fers from Salisbury Infirmary and one notified by a practitioner. There were no deaths recorded.

Whooping Cough. Of the 43 cases notified one was a non-civilian. One case, a transfer from Salisbury Infirmary, was admitted to Hospital. The death recorded was in an Institution north of the County and is considered an inward transferable death.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. All the six cases notified were non-civilians. The death given by the Registrar General was in a child diagnosed after Post mortem examination occurring in another district.

Dysentery. Eighteen cases were notified and of these 4 were non-civilian. The 14 civilian cases were notified of the Sonne type arising in an institution taking children of soldiers while the mother was being confined. All cases were notified on the same occasion and no more subsequently.

Tuberculosis. 22 cases of all sorts were notified to me, of these 4 were transfers from other districts and 4 discharges from one of the services. Two of the notified cases died and two left the district before the end of the year. Altogether 4 notified cases left the district during the year.

The Notifications were :

Male Pulm.	..	1 between 10-15	4 between 25-35
		1 „ 35-40	
Female Pulm.	..	2 „ 15-20	2 „ 25-35
		2 „ 35-45	1 „ 55-65
Male Non-Pulm...	1	„ 1-5	
Female Non-Pulm.	2	„ 1-5	3 „ 5-10
	1	„ 10-15	1 „ 15-20
	1	„ 55-65	

The deaths were :

Male Pulm.	..	1 aged 27
Female Pulm.	..	2 aged 35

Immunisation. During the year 87 children under 5 and twelve between 5 and 15 were immunised against diphtheria. This brings the total done since the commencement of the campaign to 871 under 5 and 1771 between 5 and 15 to the end of 1944, and the estimated percentage of the children in the district to 64.1% under 5 and 73.4% between 5 and 15.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to those parishes with public piped supplies continued to function satisfactorily. Despite the drought, which was severe in parts of the country, and the continued excess pumping due to the increase in the population both civil and military, there was no shortage of water in the Council's supplies.

During the year, the Council considered extending the public supply, and instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme embracing the provision of a piped supply to each parish in the District.

Amesbury Parish. A new electrically operated chlorinating plant was installed during the year. There were no extensions to the mains, but three new connections to the mains were made.

Bulford and Durrington Parishes. No new extensions were made to the mains, Five new connections to the mains were made during the year.

Shrewton. No new extensions were made to the mains. Thirteen new connection were made to the mains. This supply is not Chlorinated as less than 1000 persons are supplied.

Tilshead Parish. This village is supplied by a one inch service pipe from a nearby W.D. main. Seven standpipes, situated at various parts of the village, are taken from this service pipe.

Cholderton Parish. This parish has a supply from a water Company which gives a satisfactory service.

Frequent Bacteriological examinations of the above waters have always shown them to be free from pollution and good potable waters.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Amesbury. The Sewerage Disposal Works contined to function satisfactorily. A number of maintenance repairs and replacements were carried out during the year.

There were no new connections to, or extensions of the sewers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Two pail closets were converted to water closets during the year. In both cases, these changes took place when owners installed small treatment tanks.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The system of separate alternate collections of refuse and salvage from each parish was continued during the year. Since most combustible materials were "salvaged," it became impossible to incinerate refuse in the Destructor, and the spare land adjoining the Amesbury Sewage Works was used for the tipping of ashes etc.

Paper, tins, rags, bones, etc., were still separate, and disposed of to Contractors.

HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING.

The main action taken under the Housing Acts during the year consisted of investigation of complaints and following up of the necessary repairs.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing. Attempts to obtain the release of the additional Sanitary Inspector from military service were unsuccessful, but towards the end of the year the Council were able to engage the

services of a suitable assistant, with experience in the building trade, to commence the survey. An additional clerk was also engaged for the necessary recording and filing.

No statutory notices were served during the year but 18 informal ones were served and these were mostly complied with to the best of the ability of people concerned.

Under the Housing survey up to the end of July 1945, 829 houses had been visited and recorded.

The Council has spent much time in considering its Post War programme and has decided to budget for 100 houses during the first year and sites have been submitted to the Ministry ; in addition the Council has recently (July 1945) applied for 10 Swedish Timber Houses.

MILK SUPPLY.

Routine inspections of all dairies etc., were carried out during the year.

During the early part of the year, the Sanitary Inspector cooperated with the War Agricultural Executive Committee in the administration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme, but later the Executive Committee engaged its own staff for this purpose.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections. 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after verbal instructions only. 7
Nuisances ...	258	39	28	2	21	1	10
Knackers' Yards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	106	9	4	—	3	—	4
Cowsheds ...	216	47	11	—	9	—	35
Dairies and Milkstores							
Butcher's Shops ...	19	2	1	—	1	—	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	52	7	3	—	3	—	4
Bakehouses	31	10	8	—	6	—	2
Totals	683	114	55	2	43	1	56

Not classified above :—

Housing Inspections	84
Infectious Disease Visits	19
Unclassified Visits and Inspections—drainage, refuse collections, bye-laws, etc.	128
Total number of Visits	914

Milk and Dairies etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers Registered 1944 ..	80
„ „ Retail Purveyors Registered 1944 ..	37
„ „ Certificates Issued (Producers) during 1944 ..	2
„ „ „ „ (Retailers) „ „ ..	2

Meat and Foods. No regular meat inspection was undertaken, as all meat for the District was slaughtered in a Government Slaughterhouse, outside the District. Routine visits and inspections were made to butcher's shops, but no action was found necessary.

Regular inspection of food in provision stores was carried out, and the following articles were condemned :—

Tinned Meat	3,176½ lbs.
Tinned Milk	1,229 tins
Tinned Vegetables	513 lbs.
Bacon	72 lbs.
Tinned Fish	208 lbs.

Some of these figures appear high, but the major portion of these goods were condemned at N.A.A.F.I. and Y.M.C.A. warehouses.

Rodent Control. The work of infestation control under the Infestation Order, 1943, was continued as far as possible during the year, and, on the suggestion of the Ministry of Food, an attempt was made to engage the services of a part-time rodent operator in combination with adjoining Local Authorities, but efforts to find a suitable person were unsuccessful. Later, after a conference of adjoining Local Authorities with the Agricultural Pests Officers of the Wilts War Agricultural Committee, it was agreed that the Pests Department of the Committee should act as the Council's agents for any necessary infestations. This arrangement was working well at the end of the year.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	69	61
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	1	
Scarlet Fever ..		
Whooping Cough ..		1
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..	1	3
Other form of Tuberc.		
Syphilitic Diseases ..		
Influenza		1
Measles		
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.		1
Cancer of b. cav; and		
oesoph (M.) 1		
uterus (F)		
Cancer of stomach and		
duodenum	3	
Cancer of breast ..		1
Cancer of all other sites ..	4	8
Diabetes		1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	6	8
Heart disease	13	12
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..	4	1
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia	4	3
Other Resp. diseases ..	2	
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	
Diarrhœa under two years	1	

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Appendicitis		
Other digest. diseases ..		2
Nephritis	4	2
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes ..		1
Premature birth	3	
Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	5	4
Suicide		
Road Traffic Act	5	
Other violent causes ..	3	2
All other causes ..	5	7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	10	7
Legitimate	5	5
Illegitimate	5	2
Live Births		
Total	159	157
Legitimate	147	138
Illegitimate	12	19
Stillbirths		
Total	5	3
Legitimate	3	2
Illegitimate		
Population	13,340	

